

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-17, 37-49, 63-73, 76-81 and 93-95 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 42 is amended, and no claims are canceled or added.

Claim 42 is amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Applicant also presents this Preliminary Amendment in order to clarify the claims currently pending and previously allowed in the case. In the Notice of Allowance mailed October 16, 2009, the Notice of Allowability indicated that the allowed claims are 1, 3-5, 8, 37-49, 63-73, 76-81 and 93-95. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that claims 9-17 should also be indicated as allowed. Claims 9-17 were present in the case in the Amendment filed December 17, 2008, were not canceled by the Examiner's Amendment included with the Notice of Allowance, and in fact were at least partially included in that Examiner's Amendment (i.e., claims 15 and 17 were amended in the Examiner's Amendment). Applicants believe the omission of claims 9-17 from the Notice of Allowability was merely an oversight but nevertheless respectfully request clarification.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted after a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the issue fee. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement are also submitted herewith.

Applicants' undersigned representative attempted to contact the Examiner on each of January 15 and 19, 2010, without success. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at her earliest convenience after receiving this communication.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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